

# **FORT FISHER STATE RECREATION AREA PARK PROFILE**

## **PARK PURPOSE STATEMENT**

The purpose statement for this park has not yet been developed.

## **PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEMES**

1. Coastal Waterbirds: This theme focuses on the myriad species of waterbirds that utilize the barrier spit during various seasons. The Environmental Education Learning Experience (EELE) for the park investigates colonial nesting waterbirds active during the summer months. Other major concepts include: solitary nesting waterbirds, migration patterns, endangered species, bird identification, birds of prey and park resource management efforts.
2. Sea Turtles: This theme highlights the park's efforts in protecting the endangered Loggerhead sea turtle which nests along the ocean front beach. Topics include: turtle nesting, life history, protection efforts, migration routes and threats to the turtles' survival.
3. Barrier Spit Ecology: This theme relates the dynamic geology of the Fort Fisher area and the plants and animals which have adapted to and thrive in this unstable environment. Topics include: migrating inlets, sand movement along the beach, beach front erosion, human impacts on barrier spit ecology, dune development and successional vegetative communities.
4. Recreation: This theme focuses on safety, beach access points and the main user activities: fishing, swimming, walking and nature study.

## **STATISTICS**

Visitation (1999)	787,341
Operating Budget (FY 98-99)	\$ 235,898
Revenue (FY 98-99)	\$ 7,868

## **VISITOR FACILITIES**

Visitor Center which includes a classroom,  
concession stand and public restrooms

Ocean swimming and fishing (5 mile beach)

## CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION NEEDS

1	A <b>general development</b> project will adequately mark park entrance with a professional and inviting entrance sign, provide gated access to the beach road, construct approximately 1/4 mile of board walk along the Basin and Marsh Trails, provide handicapped access to the beach via a 100' ramp and construct a storage facility beneath the visitor contact station and secure the area with lattice barrier and access gate between pilings.	\$293,638
2	The <b>ranger residences</b> project will construct or obtain 2 staff residences. Project will determine if national guard residence nearby may be purchased or leased in-lieu of constructing new residences. Building sites are not available on Fort Fisher land holdings but opportunities exist at Carolina Beach State Park.	394,982
<b>TOTAL:</b>		\$688,620

## FUTURE LAND ACQUISITION NEEDS

At 287 acres, land acquisition is complete at Fort Fisher.

## 2000 STAFF POSITIONS

Permanent		Seasonal		Peak Load	
Park Superintendent I	1	Park Attendant	1	Park Attendant	2
Park Ranger II	2	Assistant Park Ranger	1	Lifeguard	1
Maintenance Mechanic II	1	Chief Lifeguard	1	Refreshment Stand Clerk	1
General Utility Worker	1	Lifeguard	4		
Office Assistant III	1	Refreshment Stand Manager I	1		
		Refreshment Stand Clerk	1		
		General Utility Worker	1		
		Office Assistant II	1		

## PROPOSED STAFF ADDITIONS

Permanent		Seasonal		Peak Load	
*Park Ranger	1	Naturalist/Turtle Specialist	1		
**Park Ranger	2				
Automotive Mechanic	1				

*\*Reflects the original minimum staff recommendation, January 6, 1986.*

*\*\*Reflects the minimum number of rangers required to have 1 commissioned staff member on duty during all hours the park is open to the public.*